



*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
*DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY*

November 2, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bill Kregloe, VRO

FROM: Jean Gregory, OERS

DATE: November 2, 1994

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SUBJECT: Guidance on Application of Public Water Supply  
Designations

ISSUE

The purpose of this memo is to provide a requested interpretation whether the public water supply designations denoted as PWS in the river basin section tables (VR680-21-08) of the water quality standards regulation apply to the entire section or just to the water intake.

INTERPRETATION

As stated in Section VR680-21-08.3.D, the PWS designation for public water supplies in the special standards column of the river basin tables applies at any point within the section. Therefore, the applicable numerical water quality standards in VR680-21-01.14 apply to the entire section.

HISTORY

In the December 12, 1981, version of the water quality standards, there were surface water standards for public water supplies which applied at the water intake and only on a State Water Control Board (Board) determined case by case basis were the standards applied at distances upstream of the intake (or downstream in waters influenced by tidal action). However, with the 198.4 Triennial Review, the Board adopted revised language which

applied the public water standards not only to the water intake but also to "any upstream or downstream reach specified in the appropriate river basin table." This language was retained in the 1987 triennial review of the regulation.

During the next Triennial Review amendments, which were effective May 20, 1992, the section on surface water standards for surface public water supplies (VR680-21-02.3) was deleted and the appropriate public water supply standards from this old section were carried over or updated and included along with other numerical standards in the newly created Section VR680-21-01.14, Standards for Surface Water, with the stipulation the most stringent standards in the table apply for those waters with multiple designated beneficial uses. The terminology "water intake" was not used in either the section containing the numerical standards (VR680-21-01.14) or the section describing the symbol "PWS" (Section VR680-21-08.3.D). Instead, Section VR680-21-01.14, which contains human health standards for public water supplies, is listed as "standards for surface waters" and Section VR680-21-8.3.D refers to "sections" rather than water intakes.

Please note there is currently a clerical error in Section VR680-21-08.3.D which has been approved by the Board for correction during the upcoming Triennial Review comment period. Within the parenthesis, Section VR680-21-01.14 which was adopted by the Board in May, 1992, should have been referenced rather than Section VR680-21-02.3, which was deleted in the same rulemaking.